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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			
TRANSMITTAL		Docket Number: 12928/10032	
Application Number 10/583,897	Filing Date June 20, 2006	Examiner Ricardo Palabrica	Art Unit 3663
Invention Title METHOD FOR LIMITING THE MAINTENANCE LOADS APPLIED TO A FUEL ASSEMBLY OF A NUCLEAR REACTOR AND FUEL ASSEMBLY		Inventor(s) Jean Luc-Chambrin	

Address to:

MS Amendment

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 2231301450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: January 7, 2008

Signature: 
Kevin T. Godlewski (Reg. No.: 47,598)

SIR:

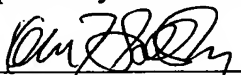
Transmitted herewith for filing is a response to the Restriction Requirement mailed December 7, 2007, for the above-identified application.

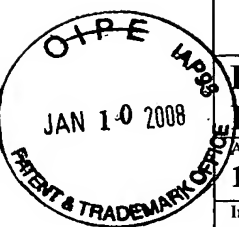
No fee is believed due. However, if any fee is due the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account No. 11-0600 for such fees. A copy of this letter is enclosed for that purpose.

Dated: January 7, 2008

By:

Respectfully submitted,


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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE			
RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT		Docket Number: 12928/10032	
Application Number 10/583,897	Filing Date June 20, 2006	Examiner Ricardo Palabrica	Art Unit 3663
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Date: January 7, 2008

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Kevin T. Godlewski (Reg. No.: 47,598)

SIR:

In response to the December 7, 2007, Office Action in the above-identified application, please accept the following response to restriction requirement.

Applicants were required to restrict the claims to one of the following species:

- 1) A1: Wherein the fixing is by crimping;
- 2) A2: Wherein the fixing is by expansion-rolling;
- 3) A3: Wherein the fixing is by welding;
- 4) A4: Wherein the fixing is by screwing.

Applicants respectfully elect Species A1, wherein the fixing is by crimping.

Applicants were further required to elect a single species of the number of end pieces to which the resilient bush is fixed. Applicants respectfully elect one end piece alone, preferably the bottom end piece (claim 12).

Applicants were further required to elect a single species of the construction variant. Applicants respectfully elect the variant shown in Figure 4A (claim 14).

Claims 10-12, 14 and 16-18 encompass the elected species.

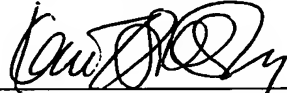
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims of the present application are now in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 7, 2008

By:



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